

INFORMATION REPORT

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SUBJECT Political Information: Soviet Citizenship Status in Sinkiang

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SUPPLEMENT TO REPORT NO.

- 25X1A 1. At present (), there are three classes of people in Sinkiang who hold Soviet citizenship:
- White Russian emigres who fled to Sinkiang during the 1917-1918 Revolution and who became naturalized Chinese citizens but who have become Soviet citizens since 1946. When these former Russian emigres were permitted to become Soviet citizens, a great number did so, particularly in cities in which there were Soviet Consulates--especially in Tihua (87-36, 43-48), Tachenghsien (82-67, 46-48), Kashgar (Sufuhsien/Koshih 76-69, 39-27) and Ili (80-61, 44-03).
 - Eurasians who have "obtained" Soviet citizenship. In most cases, the fathers of these Eurasians were natives of Sinkiang and the mothers were Soviet citizens, usually of Aryan (? European) stock.
 - Persons born in Sinkiang who were formerly Chinese citizens but who have taken out Soviet citizenship papers. The natives of Sinkiang who applied for Soviet citizenship were mostly young men of Kazakh, Kirghiz or Uzbek origin. Most of them applied for Soviet citizenship as a result of Soviet and East Turkistan propaganda and because of the various material benefits they felt they could obtain by becoming Soviet citizens. The other type of persons born in Sinkiang who have obtained Soviet citizenship are chiefly those of the Han, Manchu, Hsiao and Solun ethnic groups who live in the Ili and Tachenghsien Administrative Regions (see). Persons of these ethnic groups applied for Soviet citizenship partly because of the reasons mentioned above and partly for the purpose of having Soviet protection in times of conflict with the Chinese Central Government. Of these groups, the Han suffered particularly during the Iling Incident in 1944 and for this reason many of them obtained Soviet citizenship.
2. The "new" Soviet citizens in Sinkiang state that the process of becoming a Soviet citizen is comparatively simple. It consists of reporting to the Soviet Consulate in person, presenting four copies of a photograph and filling out certain forms, after which the citizenship certificate is given to the applicant.
3. A serious problem faces the Chinese Central Government because former Chinese citizens born in Sinkiang who have taken out Soviet citizenship still retain their Chinese citizenship. This dual citizenship enables many of them to accomplish considerable political work for the Soviet authorities, as the Government is unable to obtain from the Soviet Consulates the records of those persons born in Sinkiang who have become Soviet citizens and there is no way of determining which have dual citizenship. Persons holding such dual citizenship can purchase products south of Tihua in areas primarily under Kuomintang control. Some of the local magistrates are known to hold dual citizenships.

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4. The Soviet-backed Ining Government has made considerable use of this dual citizenship in the purchase and sale of goods and the dispatching of merchants and unofficial couriers between Kuldja (Iningsien 81-14, 43-55) and Tihua and regions farther south. An additional advantage lies in the Kuldja-Tihua Airline which is controlled by the Soviet Government; the Chinese Government authorities are not allowed to search or otherwise control passengers. Non-Soviet citizens who are permitted to go to the Kuldja from Tihua are watched closely and some instances are known in which the passenger disappeared and/or has not been permitted to return to Tihua. Since approximately 1 January 1948, non-Soviet merchants have not dared to go to Kuldja, and trade between that area and Tihua has fallen off almost completely.
5. Books, magazines and newspapers in the Uighur and Kazakh languages, published by Soviet-supported publishing houses or bookstores in Sinkiang, are either sold cheaply by these bookstores or are given free of charge to various schools and cultural organizations in the Province. In many cities Soviet motion pictures are presented free of charge. Soviet citizens in the area, particularly "new" Soviet citizens, receive daily rations of tea, sugar, cloth and other necessities at much cheaper prices than the price of these materials on the open market.

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